

XXI.—THE JACK SNIPE AND THE WHITE-EYED
POCHARD IN HYDERABAD.

The Hyderabad State Ornithological Survey did not come across the Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minima*) and the White-eyed Pochard (*Nyroca rufa*). Major R. H. Stable, 3/6th Rajputana Rifles, whose game register for the seasons 1928-1930 is filed at the Society's office, shot jack snipe at Secunderabad as follows:

Season 1928-1929. 7 jack between 16th October and 22nd February, out of a total of 181 snipe.

Season 1929-1930. 33 jack between 9th October and 15th February, out of a total of 408 snipe.

In Stuart Baker's *Ducks*, Mr. P. M. Allen is recorded to have shot a pair of White-eyes in the Nizam's territory at Nalgonda, latitude 17°22'.

GODREJ HOUSE,
ANDHERI.

H. ABDUL ALI.

November 29, 1935.

XXII.—SOME RARE BIRDS IN NORTHERN BURMA.

The records which follow are from the Myitkyina district. These skins have been sent to Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, whose notes are in square brackets:

Suthora unicolor. Brown Suthora.

There do not appear to be any Indian records of this Crow-Tit since the first edition of the *Fauna* was published. There are certainly none from Burma.

Mr. W. Stubbs shot a female on December 29th, 1934, on the Pajao-Nalpwaw road, which winds round the western edge of Lungrebum (8,528 ft., Sheet 92, Survey of India). Lungrebum is at the extreme east-south-eastern corner of the Myitkyina district, and forms here the Myitkyina-Yunnan border. A few miles to the south-west, the Myitkyina and Bhamo districts meet at Nabang. I examined this bird a few minutes after it was shot and it was apparently with a flock of seven or eight others feeding in stunted cane jungle (which is a feature of this area), on a treeless hillside at about 7,000 ft. It had a most distinct white ring round the eye, a character not noted in the *Fauna*, and I recorded the soft parts at the time as: *iris* pale yellowish white, *bill* pale horny yellow, *legs* and *claws* plumbeous-green. I shot specimens of *Pseudominia castaneiceps* and *Fulvetta manipurensis* in this locality, on the same day but had no other opportunity to visit these hills.

[This specimen, as might be expected, belongs to the Yunnan-Szechuan form *canaster* described from Washan, Szechuan, by Thayer and Bangs and of which *saturator* of Rothschild from the Shweli-Salween Divide is said to be a synonym. Mr. Stanford's bird matches Yunnan examples in the British Museum. *Suthora unicolor canaster* is a new form to the avifauna of British India.]

Pomatorhinus ferruginosus. Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler.

The *Fauna* (Edition II) does not record any race of this Babbler as occurring between the Chin Hills and Yamethin, in Central Burma. In December 1933, I had a close view of a Scimitar Babbler with a vermilion or coral-red beak and a white supercilium at about 3,000 ft. in bamboo jungle near Sumprabum. In May 1934 Mr. W. Stubbs obtained a female at Kambaiti on the Yunnan border (7,000 ft.). In December 1934 I saw two or three, and shot a male on the Sadon-Sima frontier road at between 5,000 ft. and 7,000 ft. These were all with flocks of *Actinodura egertoni* in bamboo and tree jungle and, unlike the latter, were extremely shy, giving only momentary glimpses of themselves and uttering a repeated 'churring' note. When seen, the supercilium and bill were most distinctive characters in the field.

[This Scimitar Babbler belonged to no known form of *ferruginosus* and therefore I described it as new under the name *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus stanfordi* (Bull. B.O.C., lv, p. 178, June 1935).

At the same time I feel doubtful if *P. f. mariae* from the Karen Hills is different to *P. f. albigularis* from North Tenasserim but only fresh material from these two localities can decide the question.]

MYITKYINA.

June 1935.

J. K. STANFORD,

Indian Civil Service.

XXIII.—NOTES ON ELVES' HORNED PHEASANT
(*CROSSOPTILON HARMANI* ELVES).

Location.—Near Nyengo, Tibet, about half way up the Gokar La Pass. Altitude 14,000 ft. Latitude 29°25'N. Longitude 91°33'E. Date 21st August 1935.

Type of country.—Steep-sided mountain, thickly covered with several types of dense prickly bushes, stunted silver birch trees, herbs and grass from which large rocks protruded in abundance. Country very difficult to move over.

Habits noticed.—A covey of 7 adult and young birds was first seen sitting on a rock. They were conspicuous by their red legs and feet. When this covey was flushed a number of other *Crossoptilon* started 'clucking' and showed this particular part of the mountain side to be swarming with them. It was not difficult to approach them to within 40 yards. When flushed they flew down hill. Amongst those seen were a number of young birds somewhat resembling black partridge both in colour and size.

The adults appear to have two distinct cries—one a 'Cluck' of alarm with a rather metallic resonance, and the other a communication call resembling the 'come-back' of the domestic guinea fowl. The young birds' call is a kind of shrill whistling cry very similar to that of the Marmot.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT,

LHASA.

September 12, 1935.

R. K. M. BATTYE,

Captain.